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**Report of the Secretary-General on the African Union-  
United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur****I. Introduction**

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to Security Council resolution 2363 (2017), by which the Council extended the mandate of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) until 30 June 2018 and requested me to report, every 60 days, on its implementation. The report provides an update on and analysis of the conflict, the political situation and the operational environment in Darfur and the main challenges to the effective implementation of the mandate, including violations of the status-of-forces agreement, for the period from 15 August until 15 October 2017. It also presents the steps taken by UNAMID towards achieving its benchmarks and provides an update on progress in the implementation of the recommendations contained in the special report of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission and the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the strategic review of UNAMID (S/2017/437).

**II. Conflict analysis**

2. While there were no open confrontations between the forces of the Government of the Sudan and Darfur armed groups during the period under review, the arms collection campaign launched by the Government brought to the fore tensions involving the tribal militias formerly allied with the Government, and resulted in shifting alliances among various groups. Meanwhile, intercommunal clashes and hostilities continued, many of them attributable to unresolved disputes over land management and ownership, notwithstanding the reconciliation efforts led by local authorities with the support of UNAMID and the United Nations country team. The implementation of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur, aimed at addressing such outstanding issues, remained slow, constrained by the lack of presence, capacity and resources on the ground of the remaining commissions and fund of the Doha Document. No large-scale return of internally displaced persons took place, and the overall humanitarian situation remained unchanged, with no significant displacements reported.

**Emerging tensions in the context of the disarmament campaign**

3. No confrontation between the Government and the Darfur rebel groups was reported. On 8 October, the Government extended the unilateral ceasefire until the end of December. Meanwhile, the non-signatories of the Doha Document for Peace



in Darfur and their former foes, namely, the tribal militias that had supported counter-insurgency operations, joined together in opposition to the arms collection campaign launched by the Government in August. Musa Hilal, a northern Rizeigat with strong influence over the border guards, categorically denounced the campaign and the plan to incorporate the border guards into the Rapid Support Forces (RSF). On 9 August, the Sudan Liberation Army/Minni Minawi (SLA/MM) indicated that the armed movements in Darfur would not hand over their weapons, unless comprehensive security sector reform was undertaken. On 19 August, the Sudan Liberation Army/Abdul Wahid (SLA/AW) welcomed the position of Musa Hilal and offered to work with him in rejecting the process. On 24 August, Gibril Ibrahim, the leader of the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM), called for the process to be put on hold until a comprehensive peace agreement was reached. Other forces previously allied with the Government, including two Arab militias of the Korgibba and Savana tribes, declared their support for Musa Hilal on 19 August, and 76 military officers of the 20th Division of the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) in East Darfur State, along with some RSF elements, reportedly joined Hilal on 20 August. In addition, Nour al Din Zurg, the leader of the Sudan Liberation Army/Zurg faction, who had signed a peace agreement with the Government in 2015, joined Hilal on 22 August.

4. The disarmament campaign has to date generated different reactions across the Darfur states. While no incidents were reported in South Darfur State, the impounding of unregistered vehicles in West Darfur State led to the killing of one soldier from SAF in Murnei and injury to an Arab Awlad Janoub in Al Salam by the Sudanese Police Force on 12 September. UNAMID also received reports of the tense security situation in Murnei, West Darfur, due to the refusal of Arab communities to cooperate in the arms collection campaign. In East Darfur, three Ma'aliya youth were arrested and imprisoned in Abu Karinka, while a group of former border guards from the Rizeigat tribe allegedly smuggled heavy weapons to North Darfur State. In North Darfur, the home of Musa Hilal, the President of the Sudan, Omar Hassan al-Bashir, reportedly instructed the Governor on 23 August to decisively handle any attempts to destabilize security. On 21 and 23 September, RSF reportedly clashed with Hilal's forces in the Bir Magi area, near the border with Libya, and in Dongola in the Northern State of the Sudan, respectively. On 12 October, the Governor of North Darfur announced the arrival of 10,000 RSF members to support the disarmament campaign, while the mobilization of RSF has also been reported near Kabkabiyah, where the Jebel Amir gold mine is located.

5. Clashes involving RSF were reported on several other occasions. On 22 August, in West Darfur, unidentified men exchanged fire with RSF in Adikong area, 26 km west of El Geneina, killing one RSF officer. RSF and Arab militias mobilized, blaming Chadian forces for the incident, and RSF elements attacked a group of Zaghawa coming from Chad and seized their vehicles. SAF and the Sudan-Chad joint forces were deployed to defuse the tensions in the area. In North Darfur, on 28 August, a group of RSF personnel killed a member of the Central Reserve Police in Maliha town, north-east of El Fasher, as a result of an altercation. In retaliation, members of the Central Reserve Police blocked access to the town, restricting all movement, and demanded that RSF surrender the perpetrators. Government authorities intervened to defuse tension.

6. The security situation in Sortony, North Darfur, remained precarious, with the continued presence of the Sudan Liberation Army/Popular Defence (SLA/PD) led by "General" Sadiq. On 3 September, a group of Arab nomads mobilized to attack the Sortony gathering site for internally displaced persons, alleging livestock theft by SLA/PD elements at the site. Sadiq denied the accusation, while announcing his refusal to join SAF on account of failures by the Government to fulfil its promises

and hinting at the possibility of rejoining SLA/AW. On 6 September, Sadiq, with 90 SLA/PD elements, moved from Sortony to Lugo, in Rockero, 65 km north-east of Nertiti, in Central Darfur State. Meanwhile, on 15 September, UNAMID received reports that SLA/PD had imposed a tax on traders inside the Sortony gathering site, which Sadiq claimed to use for the protection of internally displaced persons during the farming season and the purchase of ammunition and uniforms for his group.

#### **Intercommunal conflicts**

7. Intercommunal conflicts continued, albeit with fewer incidents, mainly over disputes relating to farmland, grazing areas, water and livestock. Eight cases resulted in 19 fatalities, compared with the 10 clashes with 74 fatalities reported during the previous period. The reduction could be attributed to effective interventions by local authorities.

8. In Central Darfur, on 21 August, two separate incidents resulted in the deaths of a member of the Salamat tribe in Bindisi and a Fallata near Um Dukhun. Both instances were resolved through compensation agreements reached by community leaders. In North Darfur, on 11 September, Ereigat herders killed a farmer in Wadi Mondow, near Korma. Meanwhile, tensions between the Maharia northern Rizeigat and SLA/AW elements over cattle theft escalated into the abduction and killing of a SLA/AW commander in July and the abduction of a Maharia member of the border guards on 15 August, which prompted armed Maharia to threaten an attack on Nertiti market and Straha area on 21 August. In addition, two civilians were killed by nomads in the Boulay area over livestock theft, on 14 September. In South Darfur, a Fallata was killed in Tulus in an incident of cattle theft.

9. In East Darfur, following the clashes between the Ma'aliya and the Rizeigat in June and July, the Governor issued a decree on 16 August, instructing the commissioners of all localities in the state to relieve the local chiefs (*umda*) of their responsibilities for their failure to contain the conflict. Subsequently, 194 *umda* from five communities were relieved of their duties, including 105 from the Rizeigat, 45 from the Birgid, 30 from the Ma'aliya and 7 each from the Bago and Khazan Jadid native administrations. While tensions consequently subdued, there were concerns that such measures could further weaken the traditional institutions.

#### **Violence against civilians and human rights violations**

10. The overall human rights situation in Darfur remained tense and volatile, compounded by the proliferation of arms and weak law enforcement and justice institutions. As was the case in the previous reporting period, internally displaced persons and other vulnerable persons continued to face harassment, killings, looting of property, random shootings within and around their camps and general insecurity.

11. UNAMID was informed of 72 cases of human rights violations and abuses involving 253 victims, including 16 minors (15 girls and 1 boy) and 30 women, compared with 82 cases involving 124 victims, including 15 minors, during the previous reporting period. Violations of the right to life accounted for 7 cases involving 8 victims, violations of the right to physical integrity (assault) accounted for 30 cases involving 146 victims, and abductions accounted for 6 cases involving 27 victims. There were 27 cases of sexual and gender-based violence in the form of rape and attempted rape involving 31 victims, including 15 minors (all girls), and 2 cases of arbitrary arrest and illegal detention involving 41 victims. Violence against women and girls continued unabated. Challenges of restricted access to areas where incidents occurred and the non-reporting of cases by some victims of sexual violence due to stigma and limited access to justice for women, in particular in remote areas, remained.

12. UNAMID confirmed 53 cases of human rights violations and abuses involving 149 victims, but the remaining 19 cases involving 104 victims could not be verified owing to various factors, including access restrictions. Of the 72 reported cases, 5 cases involving 39 victims were reportedly perpetrated by government security forces and auxiliary groups, 15 cases involving 16 victims were reportedly perpetrated by male civilians, including one minor, and the remaining 52 cases involving 198 victims were allegedly perpetrated by unidentified armed men, some described by the victims as Arabs. Investigations were initiated in only 17 of the 72 documented cases, resulting in 10 arrests. Police inaction and lack of trust in the police have resulted in many cases not being reported and civilians resorting to resolving issues through local or community leaders.

13. Internally displaced persons were a target in 45 crimes, which led to 6 fatalities, compared with 211 crimes with 48 fatalities in the previous reporting period. Other civilians were affected by 73 crimes resulting in 10 fatalities, including cases of murder (10), armed robbery (7), attempted robbery (4), assault/harassment (22), burglary/break-in (2), abduction (5), shooting (19), attack/ambush (1), threat of violence (2) and livestock theft (1).

14. In South Darfur, the visit of Mr. Al-Bashir to Darfur from 19 to 23 September triggered a massive demonstration in the Kalma camp for internally displaced persons. On 22 September, government forces attempted to disperse the internally displaced persons and stop them from holding a public rally across the Kalma camp, which resulted in heavy shooting between the two sides, killing 5 internally displaced persons and injuring 28 others, as well as two security personnel. A UNAMID medical team deployed to the camp and assisted the local authorities in treating the injured, while engaging the state government and leaders from among the internally displaced persons to resolve the matter peacefully.

15. In West Darfur, farmers and internally displaced persons continued to be attacked and harassed by armed herders, especially in the areas of El Geneina and Masteri. In East Darfur, improved security in the Labado area has prompted some of the returnees to reclaim their farmland from herders, in response to which the latter resorted to the destruction of crops and farms, including four in Yasin locality on 15 August.

16. During an armed robbery in Central Darfur on 5 September, a group of Arab men fired at a group of internally displaced persons, injuring one, in Wadi Faro, 20 km west of Zalingei. On 16 and 17 September, Arab nomads entered Golo town and fired indiscriminately, reportedly in retaliation for an incident of cattle theft by unknown perpetrators in an area between Rockero and Golo. The market in Golo closed temporarily as a result of the shooting, although no casualties were reported. On 29 September, a group of armed Salamat attacked the Bindisi camp for internally displaced persons, 25 km west of Mukjar, killing one and stealing a large number of cattle. On 3 October, seven armed men fired several shots and stole eight solar panels in the Thur East camp for internally displaced persons, 18 km south-east of Nertiti. On the following day, six armed men entered the camp and engaged in indiscriminate shooting, injuring one internally displaced person. On 6 October, an Arab member of the peaceful coexistence committee announced that the internally displaced persons were not allowed to leave the camp to conduct livelihood activities, in particular in areas west of Thur. On the next day, armed men carried out random shootings inside the camp.

### III. Political situation

17. The political situation remained relatively stable, but progress relating to the Darfur peace process continued to be modest. On 20 August, an informal consultation with SLA-MM and JEM was held in Berlin to explore ways to revive the peace process. Both groups maintained their rejection of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur as the basis for political negotiations, claiming its shortcomings in relation to security arrangements, the protection of civilians, compensation, land ownership and justice. They also reiterated their objections to the arms collection campaign by the Government, arguing that weapons of tribal militias should not be collected by other militias, such as RSF. On the same day, Qatar reiterated its commitment to the implementation of the Doha Document by signing an agreement to provide \$70 million for the construction of two new model villages in each Darfur state. On 11 September, in a meeting with the Chairperson of the former Darfur Regional Authority, Mr. Al-Bashir assured him that directives would be issued for speedy structuring and revitalization of the commissions tasked with completing the unimplemented provisions of the Doha Document.

18. On 22 August, it was reported in the media that Mr. Al-Bashir had held a meeting with the Prime Minister of Chad in Khartoum and discussed, *inter alia*, strengthening border control through the continuation of the Sudan-Chad joint border forces in West Darfur. On 6 September, the Governor of West Darfur, accompanied by the state security committee and some ministers, visited Adre town in Chad to discuss border issues with their Chadian counterparts. Both parties reportedly agreed to reopen the border following the aforementioned incident involving RSF in Adikong.

19. On 27 August, a breakaway faction of JEM, led by Abubakar Hamid and Souleyman Jamous, accepted the disarmament proposal made by the Government, by which a gathering point in the border area between Chad and Darfur would be identified and the process would begin after the rainy season. The parties requested the President of Chad, Idriss Déby Itno, UNAMID and the international community to ensure a safe and smooth disarmament exercise.

20. On 24 September, the United States of America removed the Sudan from a renewed travel ban imposed in March on six Muslim-majority countries. On 6 October, the United States issued a press statement indicating that it was revoking economic sanctions against the Sudan and the Government of the Sudan, to take effect on 12 October.

### IV. Humanitarian situation

21. The overall humanitarian situation remained relatively stable, with no significant displacement recorded in Darfur, although South Sudanese refugees continued to arrive in South and East Darfur, with approximately 3,500 and 195 registered, respectively, from 1 August to 15 September. The spread of acute watery diarrhoea and flash floods continued to compound the dire humanitarian situation in Darfur. In August, floods affected up to 1,700 internally displaced persons in the Zamzam camp in North Darfur and 1,600 internally displaced persons in the Otash camp in South Darfur. Non-food items were distributed to those affected in both camps. Torrential rains also affected 380 families in Niteiga locality and 341 families in the Sereif camp for internally displaced persons in South Darfur. Following verification and the conduct of a needs assessment, non-food items and water, sanitation and hygiene supplies were provided to those affected.

22. From the date on which the first case of acute watery diarrhoea was reported, on 14 June, to 11 October, 674 cases were reported in North Darfur, resulting in 29 deaths, 775 in East Darfur, resulting in 43 deaths, 2,563 in South Darfur, resulting in 123 deaths, 680 in West Darfur, resulting in 20 deaths, and 747 in Central Darfur, resulting in 25 deaths. The World Health Organization (WHO) supported the State Ministry of Health, as well as health partners, by providing supplies for treatment and conducting water quality and vector control. WHO executed 876 house-to-house awareness-raising campaigns promoting good hygiene practices and conditions in East Darfur, reaching 2,876 people, and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) continued its response activities, focusing on case management, case control and communication on disease prevention, social mobilization and monitoring and evaluation.

23. While a humanitarian response is in progress for all current emergencies, major gaps were reported, mainly in the Jebel Marra area, including in the provision of education services, emergency shelter and non-food items. A number of families in three Jebel Marra localities verified by humanitarian agencies have yet to receive non-food items. In Central Darfur, about 5,000 people affected by flooding have yet to receive emergency shelter and non-food items. The delivery of humanitarian assistance was challenged by road conditions as a result of heavy rains.

24. An inter-agency mission was conducted in Zalingei at the end of August, with the objective of initiating consultations with the Central Darfur authorities and humanitarian and development partners regarding the profiling of displacement and return areas.

## V. Operating environment

25. The overall operating environment continued to improve, with fewer criminal incidents and fewer restrictions on movement of UNAMID and humanitarian personnel reported.

### Attacks and threats of attacks

26. A total of 23 criminal incidents were recorded, compared with 40 in the previous reporting period, reflecting the overall improvement in the security situation on the ground. On 16 August, unidentified perpetrators broke into a World Food Programme (WFP) warehouse in Sortony, North Darfur, and stole a variety of food items. On the same day, in Ed Daein, East Darfur, unidentified perpetrators broke into the residence of a WFP national staff member and stole personal belongings, and, in West Darfur, a local man who stole an electric cable from the team site of UNAMID in Foro Hurunga was arrested by mission personnel and handed over to the national police.

27. On 17 August, in El Fasher, North Darfur, three unidentified armed men assaulted and injured two WFP national staff members on board a private vehicle and robbed them of their valuables. One of the victims was taken to El Fasher hospital and discharged the same day and the other was evacuated to Khartoum. On 9 September, unidentified perpetrators broke into the accommodations of a UNAMID police adviser in the Operation's "supercamp" in Nyala and stole personal belongings. On the same day, unidentified armed men opened fire on a UNAMID national staff member in El Fasher. UNAMID national staff members were robbed in El Fasher on 14 and 19 September. On 28 September, in an attempted carjacking in Bursa area in El Fasher town four men shot and wounded a national staff member. On 30 September, unknown perpetrators broke into the

residence of a UNAMID national staff in El Geneina and stole mobile phones. On 7 October, an international aid worker was abducted in El Fasher, North Darfur.

28. Three cases of carjacking were recorded during the reporting period. On 10 August, a United Nations Population Fund vehicle was carjacked in Nyala, South Darfur. In Kabkabiya, North Darfur, armed men hijacked an ambulance and stole the health equipment of a local non-governmental organization on 14 August, and in Umm Shalabiya, Central Darfur, an unidentified perpetrator carjacked a local non-governmental organization vehicle on 26 August.

#### **Detention of staff**

29. Three UNAMID staff members were arrested and detained during the reporting period. On 23 August, the national police arrested one UNAMID national staff member in El Fasher over alleged involvement in a carjacking incident. In East Darfur, a UNAMID national staff member was arrested on 28 May on allegations of bribing a public officer and espionage against the state made by the National Intelligence and Security Service; the staff member was convicted of bribery in the general court in Ed Daein on 24 August, acquitted of conspiracy against the state and sentenced to two years' imprisonment and a fine of 30,000 Sudanese pounds. Observers alleged that the trial lacked transparency and fell short of international judicial standards. A UNAMID national staff member arrested in Ed Daein on 28 August for allegedly issuing a fake cheque was released on 31 August. A UNAMID national staff member arrested in Nyala by the National Intelligence and Security Service on 23 November 2016 for alleged espionage was released from detention in Khartoum on 31 August. On 8 October, a UNAMID national staff member was arrested for failing to provide financial support to his children in Nyala but was released the following day. On 5 October, another UNAMID national staff member was arrested in Nyala, allegedly for issuing two false bank cheques, but released on 12 October after paying a fine.

#### **Access restrictions**

30. There were two incidents of access restriction during the reporting period. On 19 August, a government military intelligence officer restricted a UNAMID national staff member from entering the UNAMID terminal at the airport in El Fasher, allegedly for security reasons. On 6 September, following discussions with the Sudanese authorities, the national staff member was allowed to resume his duties at the airport. On 10 October, a UNAMID patrol tasked with carrying out a project inspection mission to various locations in Murnei town, West Darfur, was denied access by the National Intelligence and Security Service and military intelligence officers, who claimed not to have received notification of the mission.

31. UNAMID did not experience any air movement restrictions in the period under review. There were occasional bureaucratic impediments, however, including delays in the approval of flight schedules, prohibition of flights between team sites in different sectors, limits placed on air operation hours and the denial of use of the airport in El Obeid, North Kordofan, as an alternate airport for emergencies. On 11 October, in Golo, Central Darfur, SAF forced the entry of two soldiers with gunshot injuries into a United Nations Humanitarian Air Service aircraft bound for Zalingei.

32. Humanitarian activities continued without significant interference from government authorities, and several missions were successfully conducted, including to Jebel Marra. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) conducted a registration mission in Central Darfur from 7 to 20 August. On 10 September, an inter-agency assessment mission was carried out in Deribat, South

Darfur. WFP food distribution in Golo, Central Darfur, was successfully conducted, and local authorities approved regular United Nations humanitarian flights to Rockero. Significant progress was made in the issuance of notifications, travel permits, technical agreements and visas. Overall compliance with the revised humanitarian directives issued in December 2016, however, remained inconsistent. In Central Darfur, access to areas in eastern Nertiti required prior approval by the Governor and the State Security Committee, and a request for an inter-agency mission to eastern Nertiti submitted on 29 July is still pending. Humanitarians remained unable to access areas of Darfur under the control of SLA/AW, including Kutrum, Golol, and Boldong, with authorities citing the inability to ensure security for humanitarians as the reason therefor.

33. Humanitarian workers also experienced difficulties in getting authorization from the National Intelligence and Security Service and the military intelligence officers, notwithstanding their having received approvals from the Humanitarian Aid Commission. For example, the IOM registration mission in Aynsero in North Darfur was suspended by the National Intelligence and Security Service, even though it had been initially approved by the Humanitarian Aid Commission. In addition, a UNICEF mission planned for 20 to 23 August to eastern Jebel Marra was put on hold by the Government for security reasons.

#### **Visas and customs clearance**

34. The Government granted 411 visas for UNAMID, including 74 for military personnel, 196 for police personnel, 61 for official visitors, 58 for contractors, 14 for international staff members and 8 for dependants. A total of 246 visa requests have remained pending beyond the normal period of 15 days, some of them since January 2016. They include 42 for police personnel, 90 for contractors, 43 for official visitors, 35 for civilian staff members, 24 for military personnel, 11 for United Nations Volunteers and 1 for a consultant. The vacancy rate for the Human Rights Section remains unchanged, at 44 per cent, while 4 per cent of the overall 17 per cent vacancy rate for the Operation's international civilian staff is attributable to pending visas.

35. The Sudanese authorities progressively released shipments and containers from Port Sudan. Currently, 63 shipments are pending release, some of them since April 2015. They include one armoured personnel carrier, 10 vehicles, communications and information technology equipment, generators, submersible pumps and spare parts for vehicles. The delays have resulted in demurrage charges and other costs associated with the inspection and repair of equipment incurred by troop- and police-contributing countries. UNAMID is still awaiting further information from the Government on the new system for the certificate of taxation exemption for goods imported in 2016 and 2017.

## **VI. Progress towards achievement of the strategic objectives of the Mission**

#### **Protection of civilians**

36. Integrated field protection teams conducted 21 missions in North Darfur, 8 in West Darfur and 2 in Central Darfur. In North Darfur, the teams conducted daily visits to the Korma camp for internally displaced persons, together with surrounding areas, including Kundi, Tawilah, Shoba Wadi, Hillet, Hibrahim, Gozil Na'im, Bandago, Basinga, Simayat, Dekere and Kurula. The teams interacted with local communities and received reports of harassment and intimidation against internally displaced persons who were collecting firewood and grass and farming. In West

Darfur, the teams were informed of similar challenges in Habila, Kanery, Tajuna, Afandi, Almashruwa, Himmeda, Kamkam, Kurti and Azerni, including physical assaults in farming areas, denial of access to land, destruction of crops and violence against women and girls. In Central Darfur, the team visited Shawa, a farming area located 15 km east of Zalingei, in response to reports of security threats from nomads faced by farmers.

37. On the basis of input from those communities, UNAMID categorized 18 farming areas around Zalingei, Nertiti, Mukjar and Azum in Central Darfur as hotspots, although access to the areas has been difficult owing to the road conditions during the rainy season. UNAMID also intensified patrols in farming areas around Sortony, Tawilah, Umm Barru, Shangil Tobaya and Saraf Omra in North Darfur.

38. The military component of UNAMID conducted a total of 10,311 patrols, including 213 long-range patrols and 1,366 night patrols, which amounted to 2,420 visits to villages and 1,445 visits to camps for internally displaced persons. The police component of UNAMID conducted 3,924 confidence-building patrols to camps for internally displaced persons and 2,958 patrols to address the security needs of internally displaced persons, in particular women and children engaged in livelihood activities outside the camps. In addition, 304 joint patrols with 1,176 community policing volunteers were carried out as part of crime prevention initiatives.

39. The uniformed personnel of UNAMID provided 195 round-trip escorts for humanitarian partners in support of the delivery of humanitarian assistance, inter-agency and verification assessments, the distribution and monitoring of food and non-food items and operational activities. In addition, UNAMID continued to provide daily escorts to humanitarian partners undertaking the water, sanitation and hygiene initiative of trucking water from the Kube to the Sortony gathering sites in North Darfur, which host over 21,500 internally displaced persons, and regular armed escorts for the transport of humanitarian supplies between Sortony and Kabkabiyah in North Darfur. Under special arrangements with WFP, UNAMID armed escorts facilitated seven WFP logistics convoys of 32 trucks delivering 629 tons of food and non-food items in North and South Darfur. UNAMID continued to provide security for WFP warehouses in various locations, including El Fasher and Sortony in North Darfur.

40. UNAMID conducted six training sessions on human rights and the prevention of sexual and gender-based violence, community policing and family and child protection for 97 internally displaced persons (93 men and 4 women), as well as 13 training sessions on community policing, human rights and the prevention of sexual and gender-based violence, and health care for 424 internally displaced persons and community policing volunteers (247 men and 177 women). Between 13 and 24 August, 100 newly recruited prison officers were provided a two-week training in El Fasher, North Darfur, and Nyala, South Darfur, to enhance their capacity and promote a human rights-based approach to prison management.

41. UNAMID continued to follow up with local judicial authorities on the status of investigations, arrests and trials. In addition to a trial in El Geneina, West Darfur, of suspects charged with the rape of two female teachers, UNAMID monitored the court case involving two members of the Rizeigat militia accused of killing eight internally displaced persons from the Sortony camp in May 2016. In response to a rare instance of the Office of the Special Prosecutor for Crimes in Darfur pursuing accountability measures against Arab militias, armed Rizeigat in Sortony blocked the road between Sortony and Kabkabiyah, demanding the release of the two suspects. UNAMID provides support to the Office on compliance with fair trial

standards and makes the logistical arrangements for witnesses from Sortony to appear before the court in El Fasher.

42. Support from UNAMID enabled the operationalization during the reporting period of a new multipurpose court in El Geneina, which includes a rural and a district court, along with offices for judges and separate detention facilities for men and women. This allows improved oversight of the rural court and promotes access to justice for the population by reducing travel costs and facilitating the appeal of cases by the district court. In addition, as a result of UNAMID advocacy, the Government is in the process of building a correctional facility that emphasizes prisoner rehabilitation in Nyala, South Darfur, in compliance with international standards.

43. On 16 August, SLA/MM renewed its order issued on 17 December 2013 prohibiting the recruitment and use of child soldiers, sexual violence against children, the abduction of children, the killing and maiming of children and attacks on schools and hospitals. Between 15 August and 11 September, UNAMID undertook 19 field missions to hospitals, prisons and camps for internally displaced persons to monitor and report allegations of grave violations of children's rights. UNAMID also conducted six training sessions for 481 participants from local communities, women's groups and prison and police officers. In line with Security Council resolutions 1261 (1999), 1460 (2003) and 1612 (2005), UNAMID conducted 14 training sessions benefiting 628 peacekeepers and associated personnel (87 women and 541 men) to increase the awareness and knowledge of mission personnel on child rights and child protection.

44. UNAMID, in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme and the Sudan Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Commission, supported the launch of the third phase of the reintegration process for 350 ex-combatants demobilized between 2014 and 2016. On 21 August, the reintegration programme began for 200 demobilized ex-combatants in Zalingei, Central Darfur, and for 150 ex-combatants in Nyala, South Darfur. In addition, UNAMID completed 15 community stabilization projects, including 3 in South Darfur, 5 in North Darfur and 7 in West Darfur, and conducted vocational skills training for 1,200 at-risk youth in Shattay and Bulbul-Dalal Anagara in South Darfur, Umm Barru in North Darfur and Tandalti in West Darfur.

45. UNAMID teams conducted general explosive hazard assessments and disposal operations in 10 villages across Darfur, with particular focus on Jebel Marra. As a result, 11 hazardous areas were cleared and 241 items of unexploded ordnance destroyed. Mine action teams surveyed four UNAMID team sites earmarked for closure prior to their handover to the Government. UNAMID also conducted training on explosive hazards across Darfur, which benefited 12,389 people, including 2,003 men, 3,314 women, 3,790 boys and 3,282 girls.

#### **Support to the Darfur peace process and the implementation of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur**

46. The African Union-United Nations Joint Special Representative for Darfur/Head of UNAMID continued to engage with the movements that were non-signatories to the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur and the Government, with the aim of the resumption of talks towards the signing of a cessation of hostilities agreement and subsequent negotiations. In response to the letter sent by the Joint Special Representative on 11 August regarding the impasse of the process, the Government reiterated its insistence on the Doha Document as the basis for negotiations, while the non-signatories maintained their view of the need for a cessation of hostilities agreement before proceeding to negotiate further. On

30 August, the Prime Minister and First Vice-President of the Sudan reiterated the position of the Government in a meeting with the Joint Special Representative.

47. On 15 August, UNAMID met with the Commissioner of the Darfur Land Commission, who provided a briefing on the progress of the Darfur land-use mapping database, with the assistance of a German consulting firm. Those data will constitute the basis for the Land Act. UNAMID also met with the Commissioner and the Executive Director of the Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission on 20 August, who requested the support of the Operation in implementing peacebuilding activities in the following priority areas: (a) Mellit locality in North Darfur, targeting the Berti, Zayadiya and Awlad Omran communities; (b) Kutum and Waha localities in North Darfur, targeting all communities in the area; (c) Um Dukhun in Central Darfur, targeting the Ta'a'ishah, Salamat, Beni Halba and Misseriya communities; (d) Mouli area in West Darfur, targeting the Arab and Masalit communities; and (e) Graida in South Darfur, targeting the Masalit, Rizeigat, Salamat, Fallata and Habbaniya communities.

#### **Mitigation of intercommunal violence**

48. In collaboration with the Sudanese authorities, the United Nations country team and other stakeholders, UNAMID continued efforts to resolve the conflict between the Fallata and the Salamat in South Darfur, holding two meetings with community leaders and the National Intelligence and Security Service, on 17 and 21 August. In Central Darfur, two meetings were held, on 27 and 30 August, to resolve the tension between the Mahariya and SLA/AW elements, involving local officials and peaceful coexistence committee members. Similarly, in West Darfur on 20 August, UNAMID held a meeting in Arara to follow up on the implementation of the peace agreement between the Najaa and the Awlad Rashid.

49. UNAMID, jointly with the United Nations Development Programme, conducted workshops on peaceful coexistence, confidence-building and conflict prevention and management in North Darfur from 28 to 30 August and in South Darfur on 28 and 29 August, bringing together 220 participants, including 77 women, internally displaced persons, young people and nomads. To mitigate seasonal farming-related communal conflicts in the context of the upcoming harvest season, UNAMID held three meetings in North Darfur, on 16, 22 and 27 August, two meetings in West Darfur, on 16 and 21 August, one meeting in South Darfur, on 15 August, one meeting in East Darfur, on 6 September, and one meeting in Khartoum, on 15 August. The meetings brought together diverse stakeholders, including representatives of the native administrations, commissioners, local authorities and community leaders, representatives of the peaceful coexistence and agricultural protection committees, internally displaced persons, farmers and nomadic herders.

## **VII. Progress in the implementation of the recommendations of the strategic report**

50. Pursuant to resolution 2363 (2017), UNAMID continued to implement phase one of its reconfiguration, including the closure of 11 team sites and the reduction of the authorized strength to 11,395 military personnel and 2,888 police personnel. As at 15 October, six team sites had been closed, namely, Muhajiriyah in East Darfur, Edd al-Fursan and Tulus in South Darfur, and Maliha, Mellit and Um Kaddadah in North Darfur, while the closure of four additional team sites is expected to commence in the second half of October. The team site in Shaeria, East Darfur, has been handed over from the military unit to the formed police unit of UNAMID.

51. Two of the three battalions to be withdrawn in phase one have been repatriated, except for their contingent-owned equipment and the rear parties, and the departure of the third battalion was scheduled to commence on 16 October. In addition, two formed police units had been repatriated as at the end of September. Individual police officers have also been redeployed from the closing team sites to the remaining ones.

#### **Jebel Marra task force**

52. The establishment of the Jebel Marra task force is on track. Nine existing team sites in Central, North and South Darfur States have redirected their activities to address the humanitarian needs of the population in the area, while there have been promising discussions with the Government of the Sudan in Khartoum and the local government on the establishment of the temporary operating base in Golo. Following the successful meeting of the Tripartite Mechanism in New York, on 22 September, and the meeting of the Joint Special Representative with the Governor of Central Darfur, on 7 October, technical arrangements are taking place for the ground preparations of UNAMID operations in Golo. Meanwhile, UNAMID is in the process of developing a tailored protection strategy for Jebel Marra and finalizing the headquarters arrangements for the Jebel Marra task force.

#### **Civilian staffing review**

53. The civilian staffing review of UNAMID, which was carried out in August to adjust the level of civilian personnel commensurate with the drawdown of uniformed personnel, has completed its task. While the recommendations of the staffing review are being finalized, UNAMID has recommended the reduction of 562 posts, to be implemented over the next 12 months in two phases, which will be reflected in the revised 2017/18 budget.

#### **Joint financing strategy for sustaining peace in Darfur of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur and the United Nations country team**

54. UNAMID and the United Nations country team finalized the integrated strategic framework for 2017–2019 at their joint meeting held in Khartoum on 26 September. Focusing on the rule of law and human rights, durable solutions to displacement and peacebuilding for human security, the strategy sets out the common framework through which to tackle those issues in a consistent and complementary manner, based on comparative advantage and division of labour. The development of a joint financing strategy for implementing the framework is in progress, and it is aimed at identifying measures to ensure the Government's engagement in and ownership of those issues, the further geographical prioritization and sequencing of tasks, and outreach to a wide range of partners to mobilize the resources necessary for sustainable peace in Darfur.

## **VIII. Financial aspects**

55. The General Assembly, by its resolution 71/310 of 30 June 2017, authorized the Secretary-General to enter into commitments for the Operation in an amount not exceeding \$486.0 million for the period from 1 July to 31 December 2017.

56. As at 10 October 2017, unpaid assessed contributions to the Special Account for UNAMID amounted to \$141.0 million. Total outstanding assessed contributions for all peacekeeping operations at that date amounted to \$2,400.3 million.

57. Reimbursement of troop and formed police costs has been made for the period up to 31 August 2017, while reimbursement of the costs of contingent-owned equipment has been made for the period up to 30 June 2017, in accordance with the quarterly payment schedule.

## IX. Observations

58. Progress towards achieving comprehensive peace in Darfur through a negotiated political settlement to the conflict remains elusive. While the parties proclaim the desire to continue the negotiations, they set preconditions that constrain the progression of the talks. I urge both the Government of the Sudan and the armed movements to continue honouring their unilateral ceasefires and to resume talks aimed at reaching an agreement on the cessation of hostilities. In this regard, I commend the continuous efforts made by the African Union High-level Implementation Panel, led by the former President of South Africa Thabo Mbeki and supported by the Joint Special Representative, to bring the parties to the negotiating table. I urge the parties to cooperate in the mediation in seeking lasting solutions to the crisis.

59. While the disarmament of the civilian population and the militia is one of the provisions of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur and a prerequisite to establishing sustainable peace, without a wider consensus on the way forward to end the conflict in Darfur, the arms collection campaign launched by the Government has the potential to exacerbate the existing divisions within society, notwithstanding the merit of reducing the circulation of weapons that fuel violence. The developments to date indicate that the process has generated uneven outcomes across the Darfur states and mixed reactions, which, if not managed carefully, could lead to unanticipated consequences politically. In addition, the militia issue needs to be addressed in the context of wider security sector reform and adequate investments into alternative livelihoods.

60. In accordance with the decisions of the Security Council and the Peace and Security Council of the African Union, UNAMID has made progress on the reconfiguration process. I thank the Government for its cooperation and support in the repatriation of uniformed units and the closure of the team sites and appeal for the completion of the preparations towards establishing a temporary operating base in Golo. I am encouraged by the overall progress made in the issuance of visas and the release of containers and ask the Government to remove all outstanding impediments, including pending visas, customs clearance and the certificate of tax exemption, in accordance with the status-of-forces agreement.

61. Ensuring that the drawdown of UNAMID is accompanied by the further stabilization of the situation in Darfur is the collective responsibility of the Government, the United Nations system and local stakeholders in Darfur. Together with the African Union, the Secretariat has initiated preparations for the midterm review of the reconfiguration by the end of 2017, as mandated by the Security Council.

62. In conclusion, I would like to thank the Joint Special Representative, Jeremiah Nyamane Kingsley Mamabolo, and all the personnel of UNAMID, the United Nations and the humanitarian community who continue their relentless efforts to improve the lives of the people of Darfur. I commend my Special Envoy for the Sudan and South Sudan, Nicholas Haysom, and the former President of South Africa Thabo Mbeki and the former President of Nigeria Abdulsalami Abubakar of the African Union High-level Implementation Panel for their remarkable efforts to resolve the conflict in Darfur.

